



NEWS RELEASE

HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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Contacts: Sherry Llewellyn
(410) 313-2236

Police Investigating Arson at Atholton High School

Howard County Police are investigating an early morning fire at Atholton High School in Columbia that appears to have been intentionally set.

Howard County Fire & Rescue was dispatched to the school, located at 6520 Freetown Road, for a sprinkler alarm at 4:24 a.m. Upon arrival, fire crews found the remains of a fire in a classroom. The sprinkler system had contained and extinguished the fire prior to the fire department's arrival.

The police and fire departments' joint Arson Investigation Unit responded to the scene and determined that the fire had been intentionally set. Investigators believe the suspect or suspects gained entry to the school by breaking a window. The arson team estimates the cost of the damage to be at least \$10,000.

Anyone with information is urged to call police at (410) 313-3700.

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